Industrial Worker

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Wobbly Faces Jail Time for "Pieing" Minnesota Senator

The following is a letter from Bob Greenberg, a Wobbly who has been involved in community opposition to the reroute of Minnesota's Highway 55 through lands in South Minneapolis claimed by the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota people.

There was a bill in the Minnesota Senate to declare nearby Camp Coldwater—site of an ancient artesian spring sacred to the Dakota and Minnesota's earliest European settlement—a protected area, and make illegal any construction that might threaten it. This bill was killed in committee by State Senator Carol Flynn, who refused to hear it. FW Greenberg then felt the need to take direct action.

This is Bob Greenberg (agent pecan) of the Biotic Baking Brigade.

I just wanted to send out an update for everyone. On March 30, 1999, I gently pressed a vegan, organic, lemon coconut cream pie into the face of State Senator Carol Flynn.

This act was in response, and to expose her flagrant violation of, our open meeting laws in Minnesota; and her off the record abuse of power and racist statement about the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota people and their sacred lands. I did not run, but had a statement to make. I was also put on trial recently. Here are the results to date.

On May 17, I went to trial in St. Paul, Minnesota. I was charged with a gross misdemeanor of disrupting the legislature and intimidating a member (carries up to one year), and misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and 5th degree assault.

On the first day of the trial the judge made it clear to the jury and to me that he considered this a violent offense, and was afraid of being pied himself. He then had the two people with pie in the courthouse escorted to their cars. Shortly thereafter, one of the jurors expressed that he thought that trying me for a pieing was a waste of taxpayer dollars when criminals like wife beaters and drunk drivers go free all the time. He was

continued on page 6

San Francisco Messengers Vote "Yes" For Union



comic by SW K. Matt

Bike messengers at San Francisco's Ultra Ex Delivery company, as of June 1, 1999 have voted 27 to 15 in favor of being represented by the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 6. All 42 messengers (4 walkers, 9 drivers and 29 bikers) eligible to vote did so. It is the first election to authorize a union in the current Messenger organizing effort started over two years ago.

The company's management waged a hard fought campaign and both sides made good causes. Ultra is one of the better paying companies in the industry and offers shared cost benefits packages, but the union's appeal to improve the Bay Area's entire Messenger Industry struck a chord with most Ultra Messengers. All the workers voted their consciences and the workers at Ultra should take pride in a 100% turnout.

Howard A. Williams, a bicycle and walking messenger at Ultra Ex, and President of the San Francisco Bike Messenger Association, thanked Wobblies from the West Coast, Louisville, KY, Ypsilanti, MI, Tornoto and the UK for help and advice on the two year campaign. Special thanks as well went to Wendy Fallin (a former Ultra Messenger now riding in Philly). "Wendy's two e-mail's reminded many of her former co-workers that the current unionizing effort took root at Ultra in November 1996. Along with the universal point regarding their responsibilities to Messengers everywhere, this reminder gave strong support to Ultra Messengers," Williams wrote.

"We at Ultra hope this vote will encourage others at companies in San Francisco, as well as elsewhere, to organize for our rights and our earnings."

Australian Wobbly Victory

An Australian IWW member has won an industrial victory of the modern era. It's only a small win, but a win nonetheless, at a time when wages and working conditions are being pushed back right across the Australian workforce.

Mike, an Australian Wob, is a groundsman in a country hospital. Due to recent health budget cuts, hospital management has been looking for savings and so decided Mike could buy his own work boots. Previously boots had been supplied by the hospital as part of health and safety equipment. It is typical of management that when savings have to be made it is the safety equipment of the poorest paid worker that gets cut out. Mike talked to his other union, The Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union, but the union was only a little help and left Mike wondering just what he was paying union dues for.

The Health and Safety Officer at the hospital was on his side and told the hospital to get Mike some new boots. But still Mike was told, "buy your own!"

So Mike took Direct Action. Once his boots were too worn to wear he binned them

continued on page 9

Seattle, WA Wobblies Host "Organizing Weekend"

The IWW in Seattle hosted its first ever "Organizing Weekend" on June 18, 19 and 20th, a well attended series of training sessions that brought over 60 IWW members from 5 major cities and local workers wishing to organize their jobs. IWW members from Portland, Oakland, Olympia, LaCrosse, Washington, DC, Victoria, BC—as well as Seattle—devoted a weekend to learning the nuts and bolts aspects and broader strategies of organizing.

Building on an idea that came about during the campaign to organize a major shop in Sedro Woolley last year, the training was organized in a little less than two months. Experience was brought in from all perspectives—from IWW organizers with experience to "rank and file" organizers from successful campaigns to a paid negotiator from a service industry union. Many IWW members struggle with organizing drives because of the lack of internal education within our union and even less experience. The training was designed to teach IWW members the tricks and tactics that are being used, and to adopt what is useful to our vision of building radical unions.

After a potlatch social Friday the 18th, Wobs filled the hall at the Fremont Public Association by 9:00 am the next morning. Sarah Luthens, a member of the American Federation of Musicians #76-493; and Cindy Schu, of OPEIU in Seattle, began with a general overview of how a campaign progresses—from the first contact to the building of the organizing committee to the building of a force to challenge the boss. Wobs learned the interplay of "Unfair Labor Practices" and representation elections and the tricks the employers use to destroy organizing. The presentation set the stage for Wobs to learn specifics, with an understanding of the broader picture of a campaign. Their presentation ended with a video on the successful Musicians' strike and picket line in Seattle—an action Wobs took part in and whose organizers helped the IWW during the Mini Mart strike in 1996. The trainers addressed the importance that the power had to come from rank and file workers on the job, a concept consistent with the IWW's vision.

After lunch, Lucinda Clark and Phyllis Naiad, of OPEIU, gave a training on phone banking and house calls—key elements in building support for the union. Most workers are afraid to talk union on the job, even on their breaks. At home workers express themselves more openly about their job issues. Lucinda and Phyllis stressed the important tactics in any part of an organizer's work: listening, letting workers talk about

continued on page 5



"For ours are the hands that govern in factory, mine and mill,
And we need only fold our arms, and the whole wide world stands still!"

from "Hymn of Hate" by Harry McClintock

In This Issue:

Controversey In Coalitions

Wilco! From the Big Road!

How's the Family?: A Workfare Review

35 Things Your Boss CANNOT Do

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Editorial Policy Statement

The following editorial statement is a product of not only active collective members, but vocal general membership and reccommendations from the board as well. It is a living document and we welcome members' involvement in its growth and evolution:

Submissions will be prioritzed as follows:

1) Articles about specific IWW organizing campaigns. Submissions by members who are not regular contributers will be considered at the top of this category.
2) News regarding related labor activities by other workers.
3) Other news regarding activities of workers that will be of interest and relevance to the goals of the membership of the IWW.
4) Factual accounts will *always* be considered for publication before opinion pieces.

Unacceptable subject matter:

1)The use of personal attacks against individual members of the union, branches or ROCs, or the constitutional democratic processes of the union.
2) Any copy which endorses physical violence against human beings.
3) Copy which employs the use of stereotypes to describe a person or group of people; (for example: ageist, homophobic, racist, sexist, etc.)

Logistics:

1)*Absolutely* no more than 2,000 words for an article. No minumum. A good average size is 500 to 800 words.
4) *All* copy is subject to editting for length only. No content changes.
5) Copy may be submitted as a hardcopy, on a Macintosh 3.5 disk or via email. All disk submissions should be as "text" files. Our temporary email address is: iww@provide.net, *all* submissions via email should have "for industrial worker" under the subject heading.
6) Advertisements: Although you will notice there is an ad in this issue, we are still researching this policy.

The Industrial Worker is now, for the time being, a bi-monthly publication. The next dealine for submission will be the second weekend in September. Please be prompt with your submissions. The earlier the better, that way we can alert you to editting changes, etc.

Readers' Soapbox

I am absolutely shocked rigid that the IWW and Industrial Worker should be anything but utterly and unequivocally against NATO's murderous role in Yugoslavia. Of course oppressed people have the right to fight that oppression by whatever means they find necessary, Kosovo has the fundamental right to self determination. Undoubtedly, Serbia is playing the role of petty Imperialism and inflicting its rule upon the hapless people of Kosovo and we condemn it without question. But what has that to do with support for NATO in ANYTHING it does? NATO is the armed wing of the Western Ruling Classes, everything it does is to further their interests in their wider agenda for the whole world.

The implication of John Persak's article is that it is supporting the goody against the baddy, and therefore we can support it this time. If that is the implication it is dangerous naivete. Being on the side of the goody this time round is only because it fits into a scheme of things which supports the self same type of action Serbia is carrying is carrying out in countless other countries around the world, Kurdistan and Palestine to name but two. NATO has a world agenda in defence of and in furtherance of the world imperialist super-states, whatever it does it does as part of that role, as Internationalists and Communists and Socialists we most profoundly oppose NATO per sae and call for its disbandment.

We do not have to "desperately find ways to oppose NATO air strikes" they are acts of Imperialist aggression and terrorism against the ordinary folk of Yugoslavia AND Kosovo and by the way also four times now Bulgaria. Opposition to bombing busses bridges and cities ***or Yugoslavia's military*** ought to patently clear, it has nothing to do with *poor little Kosovo* or the rights of small nations to be free from oppression. For God's sake John wake up, what planet have you been living on?

Faithfully,
David Douglas
NUM Mining Community Advice Center
Stainforth Doncaster,
England

IU 120: Lumber Workers
IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 560: Communications Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
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Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

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MPLU Update

I just wanted to keep folks informed about the Missouri Prison Labor Union (MPLU). Jerome White Bey is still in the hole seemingly indefinitely with legalisms being twisted to suit by Missouri Department of Corrections to keep him there. They have a web site at <http://www.banfound.u-net.com/mplu.htm> and email at <plu@banfound.u-net.com> or via Raze the Walls/+ MPLU Nat. Communication Director Mike Lee <convict78@hotmail.com>

Any (much needed) funds can be sent to me (MPLU fund raiser + secretary) Peter Kalberer, 2300 Central Ave. SE, Box 122, Albuquerque, NM 87106 USA. 505.924.2137.

In Solidarity
Peter K.

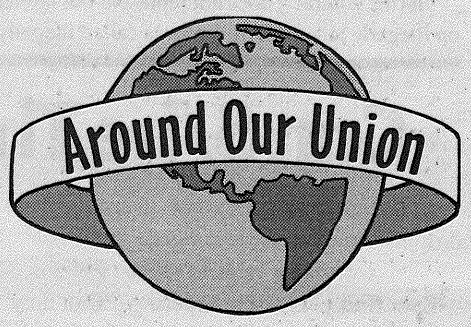
Lucy Parsons GMB Austin, Texas

After a couple months of uncertainty of direction, we have begun to set a course. We aim to increase the visibility of the IWW through more IWW events, through tabling at events of other organizations and have set concrete plans in motion to facilitate these.

We also recognize the need of monthly business meetings to have occasional "focus" meetings, the goal to assess: our resources in terms of skills, time and money; our vision of what we see as desirable goals in the short and long term; prioritizing these goals based on the resources; and then strategizing on how best to achieve the goals we set.

An exciting possibility lies in the likelihood that several of our most dedicated members will soon be leaving their current jobs, for various reasons. One plan we have discussed informally is for these members to get jobs in the same medium sized company in an industry we have considered for strategic reasons.

Finally, we had to leave our office for financial reasons, but remain on good terms with the landlords, so there remains the possibility of moving back in should it be necessary. We were prepared to launch a laborer organizing drive based on our success in getting unpaid wages for workers in the industry, when our native Spanish speaker had to leave town indefinitely due to a family emergency. Though this sets us back, we are not prepared to abandon this, we simply have to reanalyze our strategy.



We are encouraged in this by a notice today from FW Peter Moore, who returned to native Canada not too long ago, that he has finished a preliminary draft of the Spanish translation of the IWW Constitution. He is having it checked by a native speaker, so soon we will have that as a resource. We thank the Branches and members who contributed funds to help with this project.

Joshua Freeze
LPGMB Branch Secretary

Philadelphia GMB

1999 Northeast/Mid-Atlantic IWW Regional Gathering

The Philadelphia GMB is hosting this year's Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional IWW Gathering. Plans are still in the works and members are welcome to add items to a forthcoming agenda. There are several workshops open to members and non-members alike:

- An Introduction to the National Labor Relations Act: A summary of the history of the federal law which governs labor/management relations in most of the private sector. Learn how to file charges and use the processes of the National Labor Relations Board, and understand the challenges of getting legally entangled.
- An Organizer's History of the IWW: Find out what makes the IWW unique, both historically and in the context of today's international labor movement. You'll also learn about the little-known victories of the IWW of the past twenty years.
- Combatting Union Busting: Dissect anti-union propaganda, learn how to predict what the boss will come up with to crush your drive, and learn how to inoculate your co-workers.
- Using the World Wide Web for Research: A hands-on workshop on using computers to find out about your boss, industrial conditions, and more.

Time will be set aside for IWW members-only discussions of the state of our local groups and the international organization. We'll also set aside time for resource sharing and development, industrial union meetings, and reviewing proposals that will be addressed at the IWW's General Assembly.

The Shoddy Puppet Theater will be treating us to an original Mr. Block Puppet show on Saturday night as part of an IWW benefit dinner. (The show will be on tour in the fall, so you can make arrangements to bring it to your town.)

Wobblies outside of the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic region are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the Philadelphia Branch at phillyiww@iww,org or (215) 724-1925. The registration deadline is July 15th.

Detroit GMB

A letter from FW Miguel

Greetings Fellow Workers!

This is FW Miguel writing to give an update on what happened at the IWW Solidarity Camp in Chiapas, Mex. Unfortunately, due to extenuating circumstances, SW Carol Igoe and I were forced to discontinue the project 2 months early.

First off, I would like to say "Thanks!" to all of those fellow workers who supported us both financially and emotionally (for lack of a better term) while we were down there: SW Ingrid, FW Bernie, Jamie in Montreal, Huron Valley GMB and Detroit GMB. I would also like to apologize to any of you who were planning on coming down to join us and were unable to do so due to our early departure.

For those of you who are still interested in going to Chiapas, Mex. to work with the indigenous people, we can still help to provide you with information and necessary facts. You can contact SW Carol for specific answers to questions at: detroitcamp@yahoo.com, or you can write directly to the human rights group we worked the most closely with, Fray Bartelome de Las Casas:cdhbcasas@laneta.apc.org.

There is still a great need for human rights observers and volunteers in the region.

Solidarity, Miguel

The Controversy of Coalitions & A New Work Ethic

"One of the things, as a Wob, that bothers me the most is when just plain working folk are constantly pitted against each other and their environment when we're just trying to make a decent living. There really is a real enemy... greed, whether it is within ourselves or our class or from the capitalist shitsuckers."
Barry Norris, IWW

Coalition Building and a New Work Ethic for the IWW

There has been much controversy within the IWW about ongoing coalition work with Earth First! and other groups. After interviewing several Wobs and EF!ers, there are conclusions to be drawn from their work. There are substantive disagreements between those that want to work in coalition with EF! and others, and those who don't. Many of these concerns were discussed at two recent conferences.

Conferences and Coalitions

Since May of this year, two conferences were held that attempted to unite various and diverse movements in a unified front against corporate attack on community and Earth. Among the many topics covered was the subject of coalition building between labor and environmental groups.

The first conference was held in Portland, Oregon May 21-23 by the Ending Corporate Dominance Alliance. The event attracted a diverse crowd, including quite a few Wobblies. Folks gathered to educate each other on their respective issues and to appreciate a variety of speakers, including Winona LaDuke (who sent a taped message), several alternative films and workshops.

"There is a relationship between biodiversity and cultural diversity," said Winona LaDuke, author and Native Activist to the assembly. LaDuke made the important point that environmental and Native sovereignty groups would be more successful in their work if they made alliances with others.

The ECDF Alliance has taken this advice to heart and has consensed to a list of points of unity (please see enclosed box) and has used it in building a broad coalition to focus attention on the rising power of corporations.

"I see a crisis approaching that unnerves me. Corporations have been enthroned, until all wealth is aggregated in the hands of a few," said Ronnie Dugger the founder of Alliance for Democracy and keynote speaker for the conference, quoting Abraham Lincoln.

Dugger noted that even as far back as Lincoln's time, corporations had taken an unhealthy leading role in determining the structure of society, those who would have and those who had nothing.

Dugger told the crowd that 1.3 billion people in the world today are living on $1 a day or less. "We have to change the flow of wealth and power," said Dugger.

The purpose of the conference was to strategize ways in which the various movements could organize to end the influence that corporations have over policy and decision-making within communities.

One of the workshops featured the coalition between Wobs, Steelworkers and Earth First! SW Kim Pohlman, EF!er Kim Marks and Steelworkers Richard and Dan Dolphe presented a video they had made as part of a student project about the Kaiser Aluminum action in Tacoma, Washington earlier this year. The video was powerful in that it interviewed several key players in the Maxxam, KaiserAluminum, Steelworker, Earth First! saga to explain the story (big, bad company buys lots of other companies based on "unrealized assets," i.e.. giant redwoods, proceeds to turn trees to cash, then tries to "extract" extra profit from its workers at Kaiser who don't play along, get locked out, meanwhile getting support from local Wobblies who sense an opportunity to raise hell and make a point and so join in glorious struggle).

What is interesting about this particular coalition is it is not based on the agendas of the groups involved but rather on the shared vision of the individuals participating in the coalition. Many of the members of the coalition have membership in both the IWW and Earth First! The positive aspects of this are that the members have a deep respect for each other (evidenced by their cooperative and non-hierarchical organizing style) and a sensitivity to what is of mutual concern. There is no question of one organization running a "game" on another, where once the principle demands of one group are met, solidarity is no longer offered. The group comes together on a number of points. Certainly it is clear that Maxxam is the kind of company Wobs love to hate. The steelworkers there are paid much lower than the industry average because Maxxam had asked for concessions when they claimed financial crisis (actually they were in the process of expanding). Now that they can not hide profitability with their "buy up" costs, the steelworkers asked to be raised again to the same level as other workers in the industry. Maxxam's subsequent refusal and use of scabs from Pacific Lumber (another Maxxam property and Earth First! nemesis) and intimidation tactics set their own union in motion. A worker in the Kaiser plant

continued on page 7

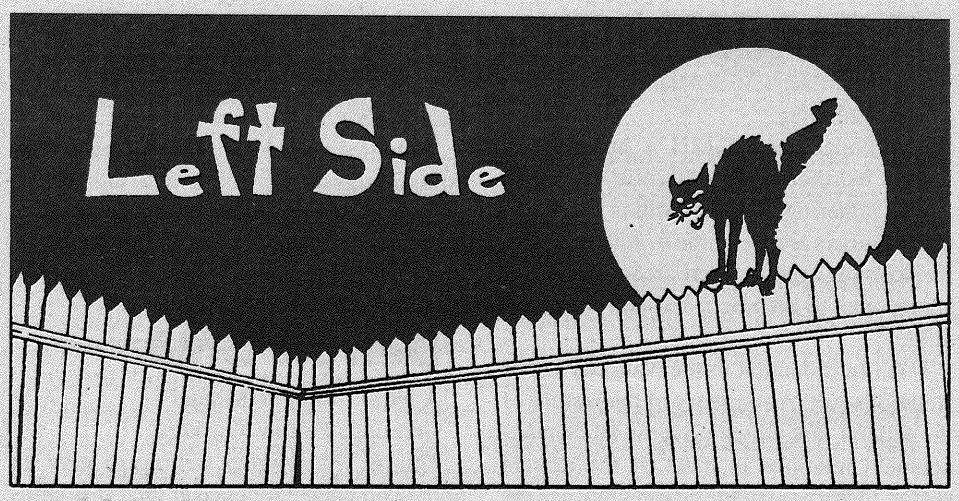
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



Freedomland boosters keep harping on how much they are number one in the rest of the World. However, in some respects, it can be quite true. For instance, the US leads the nineteen industrialized nations in the World in number of billionaires, percent of poor children, infant mortality, lack of paid maternity leave, prisons, homelessness and unimmunized pre-schoolers. Furthermore, according to Amnesty International, Freedomland may well lead on the number of female prison inmates sexually ambused by male guards. The study suggests that rape, sexual assault, and sale to male inmates as "sex slaves" are common practices in Freedomland prisons.

This little bit of information has been gleaned from the Socialists, official organ of the Socialist Party founded by Eugene Debs who was also one of the foundes of the IWW. Left wing journalists, like other journalists, are not shy about lifting from other publications, especially if the information is elucidating to one's readership. After all, plagarism is the best form of flattery so we do not feel shy about lifting.

Supposing the Chicanos and Indios from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, Utah and Colorado were to ask for autonomy? Would Freedomland prevail upon Nato to bomb Dallas, Denver, Las Vegas and Los Angeles to the peace table? With all the talk about bringing up Slobodan Milosevic on War Crimes charges, it seems that in the interests of impartiality that NATO, as well as their number one supervisor, should also be brought up on charges. Contingent on the outcome of the conflict over Kosovo, it is unlikely that NATO will ever be brought up on charges, but NATO is every bit as guilty of war crimes as Milosevic. Those innocent civilians that NATO's bombs have killed can never be brought back to life.

When are we two-leggeds going to learn that the nation state is an outmoded institution that we can ill afford to perpetuate!

United Corporation announced last March that it was relocating its telemarketing headquarters from Frostburg, Maryland. United said that the workers in Frostburg were too polite for the business. Our homes are no longer sacrosanct from those who wish to push their crap on us. Not only that, but if you happen to have a Spanish surname, you will be telemarketed en Espqanol, albeit perhaps a little bit more politely but nevertheless the same jive with a little vaseline. There is the constant temptation to let fly a few piquant expletives back into the receiver, but you also realize that on the other side is some fellow working stiff who is unable to find a more dignified means of slavery, and you kindly say no or just hang up. Some years back, I had a roomate who worked at one of these places. Not only were the wages lousy, but the boss would keep monitoring their calls.

The Nike corporation announced that they were raising the minimum wages of their workers in Indonesia to thirty seven dollars a month which is roughly one quarter the price of a pair of Air Jordans here in Freedomland. No doubt the Nike folks profess Christian charity.

According to Barbara Brown Taylor writing in the Circiut Rider, "Moses and Paul were murderers, Jacob was a swindler, King David was an adulterer, and Judity used sex to lure Holofernes to his death.." During my solitary confinement days back in World War Two, I had the opportunity to read quite a bit of the "Good Book" and can attest that the aforementioned characters are but a small proportion of those you would prefer not encountering, that this reverend tome is replete with. I cannot help but agree with Robert G. Ingersoll when he paraphrased the old platitutde, "an honest man is the noblest work of god" into the old platitutde, "an honest god is the noblest work of man." I think of Jehova telling AQdam and Eve to stay away from the tree of knowlege and Massau, the Great Spririt of the Hop Nation upon making humans, was happy upon seeing that they had the power of individual choice.

Tax payers of the World, Unite! You have nothing to lose but your tax collectors!

C.C. Redcloud.

IW Sustaining Fund

Dorice McDaniels	Lawndale, CA	$98
McArthur Gunter	Camp Springs, MD	$19.47

IWW Fighting Fund

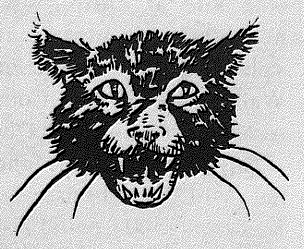
Bob Heald	Montpelier, VT	$20
Clement Joseph	New York, NY	$15
Cliff Bennett	Hawkestone, Ontario	$100
David Brodsky	Prarie Village, KS	$5
Glen Libby	Utica, MI	$10
Peter Kalberer	Albuquerque, NM	$30

Get 'Em Sabo Kitties!!

Bay Area, CA Construction "Wildcat"ers

Construction Workers from all around the Bay Area, (that is: San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley, California), have been actively striking against the (sell-out) contract "negotiated" by "the union's bureaucrats and the bosses without the consent of the union's rank and file."

The Carpenters walked off the job at San Francisco Airport, they walked at Pacific Bell Park, they walked at Kaiser Park and Microsoft. They have been supported by ironworkers, laborers, cement finishers and electricians.



Union Bureaucrats continue to attempt to thwart their efforts by courting workers individually, but each worker also knows that those same bureaucrats voted themselves a Big Fat Raise in their bogus contract.

"It (the contract) does not represent our interests and it was voted on illegally at a meeting that was called illegally. It must be removed."

Can S/he They Do That?

Of course they can do that – it's what they do.

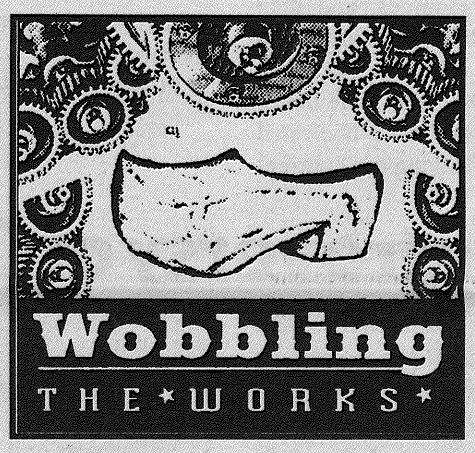
Ever find yourself wondering, "Can they do that?" when your bosses have made arbitrary, unnatural, not nice, or just plain weird proclamations of how things are going to be? Well, wonder no more! In order to help out those not familiar with the expansive powers of Dear Boss in the United States, I have compiled a handy legal reference guide to such questions, collected from e-mail, family gatherings, social settings and organizing drives.

Question: My boss is reading my company-account e-mail. Can he do that?

Answer: Yes, he can do that.

Question: My boss told me to stay three hours late to fix a mistake she made. Can she do that?

Answer: Yes, she can do that.



Question: The company made a policy where we have to clock out to use the bathroom if we're not on break. Can they do that?

Answer: Yes, they can do that.

Question: My boss is listening in on my phone calls. Can she do that?

Answer: Yes, she can do that.

Question: My boss has mounted a camera to watch me while I work. Can he do that?

Answer: Yes, he can do that.

Question: My boss told me to take my quarterly drug test in front of a manager. Can he do that?

Answer: Yes, he can do that.

Question: Even though the company made record profits last year, they are canceling our benefits package and cutting our pay. Can they do that?

Answer: Yes, they can do that.

Question: I've worked making potato chips for over fifteen years. Now the boss wants me to train her nephew to be my supervisor. Can she do that?

Answer: Yes, she can do that.

Question: I'm a dishwasher, but the company made a policy that I have to wear a tie to work. Can they do that?

Answer: Yes, they can do that.

Question: Today I got fired from my job selling bicycles because I don't like the Bulls. Can my boss do that?

Answer: Yes, he can do that.

Fellow workers, you will notice that a subtle pattern is developing. Bosses can very much do as they please (with very *minimal exceptions*) in workplaces. That is the legal reality. Bosses have been acting in their bossy ways for a very long time.

So, it's time for a turn-around, one that must come from us. Instead of asking ourselves, "Can they do that?", since bosses demonstrate that they will act in most absurd manners on a daily basis, we must instead ask ourselves, "How can we stop them?"

Workers make unions to deal with the ever-growing powers of our bosses. The IWW has a vision for a world without the pesky critters, one where everyone will work for the good of humanity, instead of lining the pockets of a greedy few. By organizing, and not shrugging our shoulders when we find out, "Yes, they can do that", we will see a day when the obvious answer is, "No, they can't do that", and then maybe the day after, there won't even be a "they" to discuss.

-Alexis Buss

If there is an issue you would like to see addressed in Wobbling the Works, write FW Buss at PO Box 42777, Philadelphia, PA 19101, or e-mail phillyiww@iww.org

Partner #2

by Susan Eisenberg

From the paper mill she remembered him
in gauzy pastels blue pink green
like the foam overflowing calf-deep as he
taught her to wire motors hang cable tray—

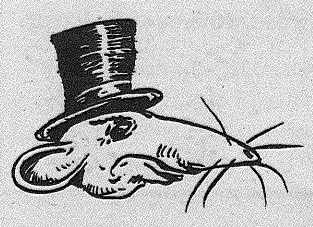
until the Christmas party confession of his
obsession with her breasts as she labored
beneath him. No longer remembered only in pastels.

see review on page 10

One More Dirty Rat

Church of the World Creator

For decades this organization has promelgated their racist view of humanity. Their absolutely skewed and unforgiveable view of people as "subhuman" is a betrayal of their class and a cancerous growth by itself and in conjunction with the likes of The Aryan Nation and the Ku Kux Klan. The weekend of July 4th, two murders and 20 injuries were committed by a follower of this hateful group. When the leader of the "church" was asked how he felt about it he said, "I don't feel anything. I feel about as much as I would if a snake was killed."



Hate groups such as this abound in our global society. It is important to note, however, that these groups with all of their obvious and blatant racism and hate, are not the main source of oppression that most people feel. It is important to stand up in our places of work and on the street in our daily lives when we encounter language or actions that compromise our fellow human beings' right to live and exist without fear of attack from dangerous lunatic bigotted idiots.

Partner #6

by Susan Eisenberg

Foreman diplomacy paired them up
first 5 minutes on the job
avoiding any refusals to partner with
the 1 female the 1 black. They shrugged:
the rejection their respite from
feigning deafness and deference.
Brought their homeselves in. Got themselves
comfortable, work and talk flowing like
wire through well-laid pipe, or the tunes
they sometimes sang. One by one
the crew found cause to buzz closeby
like homesick travelers drawn to warmth.

see review on page 10

An Overview of Seattle's Successful "Organizing Weekend"

continued from page 1

their job and making the point that the union would belong to the workers. The session ended with practice and role playing so that folks could get a feel for how it all worked.

Sunday morning opened with a short presentation on the history of labor law and how it is used to crush union organizing and bureaucratize militant unionism. Described was the actual process of filing for elections, how they work and how unions can dodge the law to increase their power. Lacking was an understanding of labor law in other countries, primarily Canada, showing the IWW needs to develop resources in these areas to be truly international.

Afterward, union members listened intently to Don Alexander, a veteran Black Activist and former business agent for a building trades union. Don pointed out that "since [he] was the only Black man in the room, [we] weren't doing our job." Don gave a presentation on perceptions and communication, explaining the importance of inclusiveness in our movement and stating that if a movement isn't all inclusive, then it is "some people, but not The People." The presentation gave a much needed break from the discipline of the training sessions, and allowed folks to think about the larger picture and question their own motivations.

A short session followed on the tactics and accepted procedures of "Collective Bargaining." While a contentious issue in the IWW itself, Kim Cook of SEIU presented a picture of how the mainstream unions conduct negotiations and fielded questions on variations that Wobs have always proposed as an alternative to standard practice. "No Strike" clauses, arbitration and grievance procedures require consistently organized militancy to enforce through shop floor actions, and many unions cannot maintain such a level of activity. This presented the IWW with a challenge on how to avoid "No Strike" clauses—especially since the IWW is barred from entering into such an agreement. Kim also described the tactics employers use to stall negotiations, what constitutes employer unfair labor practices and mandatory subjects for bargaining. This was clearly a case where many ideas would have to be adapted to a different way of maintaining unions. The difference between the IWW and business unions.

A presentation followed in the afternoon on Union Busting, describing the tactics of "labor consultants" and how they work as an arm of management. A video presentation of a unionbuster gone pro-union reinforced the experience that some folks had when the employers found out about the union—captive meetings, scare tactics and the laundry list of what the boss says when workers rebel. Many described having these experiences and not even knowing the boss had hired a unionbuster, re-emphasizing that the buster works behind closed doors. The point was made that in the initial stages of a drive, workers have to be "inoculated" against the tactics of a unionbusting manager. What is said, what is done and who is responsible. (The video is available through the UE website.)

The last session on Direct Action started with footage from the strike of six unions at the Detroit Free Press, which illustrated the direction a labor conflict could take and how it affects people's lives. An open discussion followed, and it was pointed out that since the IWW doesn't have massive resources it would be irresponsible to call a strike—unless we knew it could be won quickly. Striking on the job was discussed in the context of the modern workplace, as well as the difference between long term and short term goals—from health and welfare to retirement an down to immediate safety hazards that workers face every day.

IWW members left with a sense of having learned alot and with a willingness to apply the new knowledge to their own situations and campaigns. Several drives are in the early stages in Seattle and Portland, and many are excited about contributing to existing drives or organizing their own workplaces. Though our vision was well understood by both Wobs and the trainers, the sessions did not get bogged down in ideological debate or secretarian posturing. What was accomplished was that mainstream organizers got to see IWW members as they were—workers. IWW members got to see the organizers as a place to draw knowledge from to be more effective in building the OBU.

Future sessions are being discussed for Seattle as well as designating and building support for a nationwide organizing conference. A package for IWW Branches and IUB's to use as a tool to organize their own trainings is also being discussed.

The IWW Organizing Weekend was a success in many ways. It addressed the need for internal education in the IWW about how to organize. It brought together IWW members from several cities, strengthening regional solidarity. It gave members some of the tools necessary to carry through on the vision of building radical rank and file unions on the job. Finally, it drove home the sense of purpose of why so many have joined the IWW with the hope of building the IWW into a major force.

John Persak, Puget Sound IWW

REMEMBERING OUR HISTORY—PART III

Eighty-two years ago this month, on June 28, 1917, predominately IWW miners working for the Phelps Dodge Company in Bisbee, Arizona, struck the copper mining company over wages. On July 11, after careful preparation, Cochise County Sheriff Harry Wheeler deputized several thousand anti-IWW county residents and sealed the county from the outside world. On July 12th they siezed 1200 striking miners and other, and forcefully deported them by train to the desert in New Mexico, across the Arizona border, where they remained stranded.



The action in Bisbee aroused protests from the Governor of the State of Arizona, various other state and national leaders and the President of the United States. However, Wheeler stood firm and the U.S. Justice Department took the stand that the miners' constitutional rights had not been violated. As the miners languished at an abandoned Army base in Columbus, New Mexico, attorneys for the IWW and AFL were arrested and thrown out of Bisbee. In response, IWW General Secretary/Treasurer Big Bill Haywood threatened a general strike of mine and metal workers that led President Wilson to the conclusion that the IWW was a dangerous organization; especially in light of America's recent entrance into the World War.

By September of 1917, the deportees had left New Mexico. A few tried to return to Bisbee but were jailed or turned away. On the Federal level, efforts were underway to supress the IWW that would lead to the enactment of criminal syndicalism laws and the government siezure of IWW records and assets. Trials ensued and many of the most prominent IWW leaders and organizers were imprisoned. The assets and records siezed by the U.S. government were never returned, leading to a general scarcity of IWW historical records.

Most remaining IWW historical records are contained in the IWW Collection and other related personal collections at the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Anyone interested in the collection, or interested in adding to it, should contact William LeFevre at the Archives at telephone number (313) 577.2789 or by email at William.LeFevre@Wayne.Edu.

35 things your employer CANNOT do!

Do you know...

It is unlawful for your employer, supervisor or foreman to interfere with, restrain or coerce employees seeking to organize or join a labor union? Any such act constitutes a violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

Here are your rights and protections under the law:

"Section 7: Employees shall have the right to self-organization; to form, join or assist labor organizations; to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing; and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection..."

"Section 8: (a) It shall be an unfair labor practice for an employer—

1) to interfere with, restrain or coerce employees in the exercise of their rights guaranteed in Section 7;

2) By discrimination in regard to hiring or tenure of employment to encourage or discourage membership in any labor organization..."

You are not alone...

The IWW believes that by acting in solidarity, in union, we are building a new world in the shell of the old. Through our union of solidarity we will create a free world with the good things of life available for all.

The Employer Cannot...

1. Attend any union meeting, park across the street from the hall or engage in any undercover activity which would indicate that the employees are being kept under surveillance to determine who is, and who is not, participating in the union program.

2. Tell the employees that the company will fire or punish them if they engage in union activity.

3. Lay-off, discharge or discipline any employee for union activity.

4. Grant employees wage increases, special concessions or benefits in order to keep the union out.

5. Bar employee union representatives from soliciting employees' memberships on or off company property during non-working hours.

6. Ask employees about union matters, meetings, etc. (Some employees may, of their own accord, walk up and tell of such matters. It is not an unfair labor practice to listen, but to ask questions to obtain additional information is illegal.)

7. Ask employees what they think about the union or the union representative.

8. Ask employees how they intend to vote.

9. Threaten employees with reprisals for participating in union activities. For example, threaten to move the plant or close the business, curtail operations or reduce employee benefits.

10. Promise benefits to employees if they reject the union.

11. Give financial support or other assistance to a union.

12. Announce the company will not deal with the union.

13. Threaten to close, in fact close, or move the plant in order to avoid dealing with the union.

14. Ask employees whether or not they belong to the union or have signed up for union representation.

15. Ask an employee, during a hiring interview, about his or her affiliation with a labor organization or how he or she feels about unions.

16. Make anti-union statements, or act in any way that might show preference for a non-union person.

17. Make distinctions between union and non-union employees when assigning overtime or other desireable work.

18. Purposefully team up non-union workers and keep them apart from those supporting the union.

19. Transfer workers on the basis of union supporting activities.

20. Choose employees to be laid off in order to weaken the union's strength or discourage membership in the union.

21. Discriminate against union workers when disciplining employees.

22. By the nature of work assignments, create conditions intended to get rid of an employee because of her or his union activity.

23. Fail to grant a scheduled benefit or wage increase because of union activity.

24. Deviate from company policy for the purpose of getting rid of a union supporter.

25. Take action that adversely affects an employee's job or pay rate because of union activity.

26. Threaten workers or coerce them in an attempt to influence their vote.

27. Threaten a union member through a third party.

28. Promise employees a reward or future benefits if they decide "No Union."

29. Tell employees that overtime work (and premium pay) will be discontinued if the plant is unionized.

30. Say that unionization will force the company to lay off employees.

31. Say that unionization will do away with vacations or other benefits and privileges presently in effect.

32. Promise employees promotions, raises or other benefits if they get out of the union or refrain from joining the union.

33. Start a petition or circular against the union or encourage or take part in its circulation if started by employees.

34. Urge employees to try and induce others to oppose the union or keep out of it.

35. Visit homes of employees and encourage them to reject the union.

WE ARE ALL LEADERS!

The Industrial Workers of the World is a different sort of labor union. Believing in the strengths and abilities of average working people, the IWW is controlled by you and me, its members. By understanding how the workplaces are run and where our power lies as workers, we can develop the tactics to get everything workers deserve.

WON'T YOU JOIN US?

The IWW is only as strong as its membership.

We need your help to carry out our work.

It's a do-it-yourself sort of organization, working toward a better world and a better life.

Contact:
IWW General Headquarters
103 W. Michigan Ave.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197, USA

Phone: 724.483.3548

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!!

Twin Cities Wob Convicted of Disrupting State Legislature

continued from page 1

promptly removed from the jury.

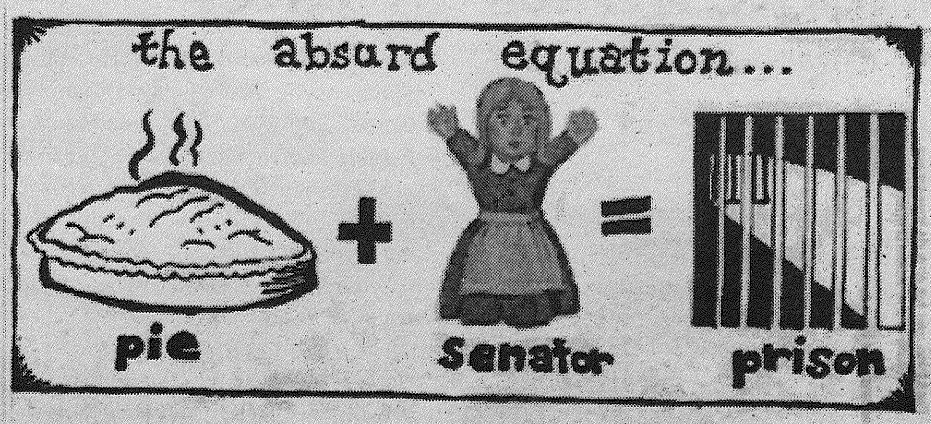
Day two saw lies and conspiracies on behalf of the judge and the prosecutor. The prosecution requested 14 witnesses and got 14, as well as 7 pieces of evidence and got 6. I requested 11 witnesses and got 1, and requested 4 pieces of evidence and was allowed none. The judge would not even allow me to have my own confession admitted. Someone passed out Fully Informed Jury Act info to those in court, but the jurors never got it (or at least never admitted to getting it), so the jury was sequestered for the rest of the trial.

Day three there was a bomb scare for the building. Ironically, the only part evacuated was my courtroom. Upon returning, metal detectors and searches were conducted at the courtroom doors. This was the only area of the building to receive this treatment. Bomb scare my ass! More like harassment and discrimination because my courtroom was filled with Native Americans and Earth First!ers and other dreadlocked looking folks.

The prosecutor could not get a good answer out of me so he quit his questioning early. Things looked pretty good around noon, so we had a press conference and served free soup and pie with Food Not Bombs in front of the courthouse. The trial and the pie serving made all the Statewide papers and some TV and radio.

In the closing arguments the prosecutor broke the law and told lies, but the judge never busted him for it. He put words in my mouth that I never said, and then told the jury, "I have never done this before ladies and gentlemen of the jury, and I will never do it again, but I am going to ask you to not only return a verdict of guilty on all three counts, but to return a verdict of guilty on all three counts quickly. We need to make an example of Mr. Greenberg to show that we do not accept this as a legitimate way to conduct our political affairs in this state." It is illegal for an attorney or a judge to urge the jury to make a quick or a slow decision. He violated the law and the judge allowed it.

The jury came back less than 45 minutes later with guilty verdicts on disrupting the legislature and intimidating a member as well as disorderly conduct. They did not find me guilty of assault in the 5th degree which shows that they did not consider this a violent offense.



The prosecutor moved for me to be taken into custody immediately to await sentencing. The judge said, "Mr. Greenberg, I do not consider you a flight risk or a danger to society, so I hope you do not disappoint me. You are ordered to return to this court on July 2nd with your affairs in order and prepared to go to jail."

The newspapers were told that since this was the first time anyone has ever been charged with disrupting the legislature that there are no sentencing guidelines and they intend to make an example of me.

I went back to court on June 9th to move for a mistrial or dismissal of the charges that I was convicted of. The judge denied the motions and said that he still felt that this was a violent offense (even though the jury found the opposite) and then reiterated that he needed to see me on the second of July. I asked if I could have the 4th of July to spend with my family and friends to celebrate freedom, justice, independence and all that shit we are duped into believing that we have in this fascist america.

The judge again reiterated that he did not consider me a flight risk so he would sentence me on the second (making it clear that jail time was to be served) but he would give me a date after the second to turn myself in to the jailers.

I am asking people to write to Judge Dale Lindman, 15 West Kellogg St., St. Paul, MN 55101 USA, to ask that we "Let Bob serve pie, not time" or to that effect. These letters may be helpful, but they need to arrive to Judge Lindman before Friday, the 2nd of July.

If you want to include any of the following information to the judge it may also be helpful. If I am sentenced to jail time, it will be critical to get letters to the judge and corrections facility pointing these things out quickly. A friend of mine got his 6 months reduced to two weeks because of this type of campaign:

"If I am put in jail I will hunger strike until they give me a vegan, organic, whole raw foods diet. I will eat no modified or commercial foods (oranges as they fall off the tree, whole raw nuts, fresh raw vegetables), but I will eat bread, rice, cous cous or cooked grains.

"I refuse to allow the corrections officers to put pesticide on me)for lice). Pesticides do not know when to stop killing and goes against all that I fundamentally believe about the sanctity and sacredness of life. I will fight, kick, bite and scratch in self defense to prevent this poison being put on my body.

"I will engage in work that enriches a corporation. I will clean laundry, showers, grounds, etc. Whatever they want if it is community service type work or jail upkeep and does not enrich the corporate sector. (I will do no work at all if it is a privatized, for-profit jail).

"I will not wear a prison uniform. I am a political prisoner and not a criminal."

I also need to raise $1,750 more for the appeal process to begin, (this does not include legal fees, only transcript purchase and appeal court filing fees.) Anyone who can send support it would be greatly appreciated. Make checks payable to Bob Greenberg (put "pastry defense" on the memo) and send the check to my mom at: c/o Pat Fournier, 2455 Lachman Ave. NE, St. Michael, MN 55376, USA. (In case I am in jail, this is the best place to send correspondence.)

Controversies in Coalitions: Towards A New Work Ethic

continued from page 3

tipped off friends in Earth First! to the connection to Maxxam and to an incoming shipment. Their joint action with the Wobs is history.

However, because there has been no clear organizational commitment on the part of the IWW or EF! to long-term goals for the coalition, there is the question of "how far can it go?" Some Earth First!ers, like Darryl Cherney, say that the coalition was a "one trick pony." Long-time local Wobblies fear that a "me too" attitude, as FW Morgan Miller characterizes it, leaves Wobs running after coalitions like this one without articulating a position that would set goals and guidelines.

At the Heartwood conference in Michigan, the attitude of the participants in the "Connecting Communities" (discussing how labor and religious communities can work with environmental groups) workshop was also positive and at the same time, guarded. Heartwood is a grassroots group based in the midwest working on forest protection.

In most environmental fights, the company in question pits workers against the environmentalists. "Its your jobs or the trees," wood industry workers hear repeatedly. "The forest protection movement is not about jobs versus the environment, it is about corporations versus communities," says Northwoods Wilderness Recovery Director Murray Daily in response.

Groups like Heartwood recognize that in order to have any dialogue with workers and surrounding communities, it is necessary to establish trust and understanding with workers in the industry. The sticky part is coming up with a shared vision of what both movements can support. The position of the group that met in Michigan was that it was necesary to jointly develop an economic plan with workers in the industry .

Many times the "jobs versus the environment" claim is absolutely bogus. Economist Karyn Moskowitz has been doing economic research on environmental issues for years and has discovered that oftentimes perception differs from reality. "Some communities think that most of their jobs or their tax base is dependent on forestry or grazing, when actually most folks in the community are working someplace else. Seeing the actual numbers helps communities make their own development decisions, aside from the industry hype," Moskowitz informed conferencers.

It is easier to begin laying groundwork for joint organizing based on a common opponent - the boss. Taking some direction from the Ending Corporate Dominance Alliance points of unity, labor and environmental groups could agree on some basic shared concepts that would guide their strategy in taking on corporations. The more challenging part of this process would be laying out long term strategy. Can we agree on what the world we struggle to create will look like?

Will the environmentalists dream of "green" capitalism? Will the labor activists insist on worker owned and operated factories continuing production of weaponry and toxic chemicals in the interest of full employment? These are often concerns voiced by activists about the "other side", expressing distrust. But they were not evidenced in the discussions held at either conference.

A New Work Ethic

It is now apparent with the current ecological crisis that equal in importance to taking over the means of production, we must create an ethic that governs what industries should continue in this new world we struggle for, and which ones are not sustainable but existed only because they served the needs of the corporations. What is needed for the type of coalition-building that is happening between Wobs and environmental groups is a new work ethic that can direct the long term goals of labor organizing. Just as the environmental movement benefited from the land ethic articulated by Aldo Leopold, our organizing efforts must go beyond just getting the bosses off our backs.

In forming alliances with other organizations, we must be clear what are our common goals. In the instance of Earth First! and the Wobs working with the steelworkers on the Kaiser Aluminum campaign, there was perhaps only the chance overlap of multiple agendas. Earth First! has long battled Maxxam to stop its subsidiaries from cutting down the Redwoods. The steelworkers were willing to have "interesting" allies in this latest contract struggle, but would they be willing to consider economic conversion of their industry? Would Earth First! consider working with timber industry workers and steel workers to create solutions? (Is there such a thing as "sustainable forestry" and "clean production?" Probably not.) By listening to the workers' plans and ideas for themselves, their families and their communities, Earth First! could become part of the creation of a truly sustainable community.

A new work ethic could articulate more clearly what is already alluded to in our preamble, an economic and social system "in harmony with the Earth." If an industrial process tends to endanger the worker, the surrounding community and the Earth, then it is not a sustainable process and is not in the best interests of the workers to continue to engage in. If a production process or service tends to satisfy the real (as opposed to perceived) needs of the workers, the surrounding community and the Earth, then this process or production should continue to be engaged in by workers. All processes and services should be controlled democratically by the local community so that all affected parties can hold the process in question up to this shared standard to their satisfaction.

Everything we do affects everything else that exists. Workers alone can not impose their needs on all other parties as that would not be either democratic or sustainable, both central tenets of the IWW.

Finally, are we, as a revolutionary labor movement building the new world within the shell of the old, capable of making this next step in articulating a radical labor position? The time is definitely now to state not only how the production of goods and services should take place but how those choices would be made as to what goods and what services would be provided. We cannot ignore the fact that there are millions of workers world-wide engaged in, at best, useless and wasteful production and, at worst, dangerous and destructive processes and production.

These processes are dangerous not only to the Earth in the "big" picture , but to the workers and their families in the smaller frame of reference. Over and over again, I read the OSHA cases against Dupont, Dow, etc... According to Moskowitz, "workers in the forest industry suffer a higher rate of death and injury on the job than any other profession." These same entities that show such utter disregard for the value of life in their pursuit of profit, are the same ones negotiating with families for the price of their loved ones lost to on the job "accidents" and work-related disease.

We cannot continue to see the work of the IWW as being only to organize working people on the job, or to struggle only in the economic arena for control over the means of production. The problem we face and our vision is much broader than that, historically.

Marie Mason

The "End Corporate Dominance '99" conference was the second such gathering in the Pacific Northwest. A year ago, participants in the first meeting drafted and approved a majority statement that has since directed their work. The points of unity are as follows:

1. The current struggle against corporate power (Oppression, concentration of capital and inequality) has a long history.
2. Corporate control is the root cause to many of our issue problems.
3. Corporations must be required to promote public welfare. If they fail to act on behalf of public welfare, people must have the authority to disband them.
4. Corporations should not have the rights of persons (eg. right to free speech). Individuals who profit from corporate activity must be held fully accountable for the corporations acts.
5. Regulatory reform to address abuse on a corporation by corporation, issue by issue basis has not averted global environmental and human catastrophe.
6. The crisis has accelerated and reached a global scale. This requires urgent action!
7. We must take action to dismantle the mechanism and eliminate the root causes of corporate control for healthy communities and ecosystems in the future.
8. Corporate rule is neither necessary nor inevitable and is surmountable!
9. Alternatives to corporate dependency already exist and need our support to grow and spread.
10. Alternatives to corporations have been around longer than corporations.
11. We need to pay attention to and protect indigenous ways of organizing and sustainable cultures that are not totally destroyed by corporate colonizing practices. We need to address corporate and government theft of indigenous and other peoples' lands.
12. We don't need corporations, but we need clean water and air, fertile soil , healthy eco-systems and each other.
13. The institutions we create must be under our control to meet our real needs in balance with nature's laws and limits.
14. We do not live in a true democracy. We must build a real Democracy that empowers each individual and promotes self-sovereignty from the local level.
15. To build democracy and alternatives to corporate dependency, we must work together, respect our diversity, and build trust for strong cross-movement alliances.
16. We need to create international links of solidarity and coordinate our efforts to avoid exporting our problems to others.

Compare these points with the stated purpose of the Wobblies as follows:

1. To organize the workers in such a way that they can successfully fight their battles, and advance their interests, in their everyday battle with capitalists.
2. To overthrow capitalism, and to establish in its place a system of Industrial Democracy.
3. To carry on production after capitalism shall have been overthrown.

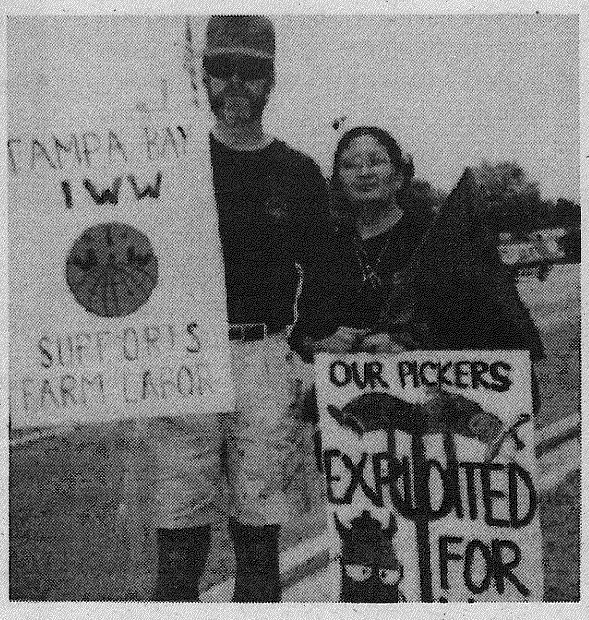
Wobblies Participate in Pickle Picket

They ralied at noon beneath a sweltering Florida sun, but after thirty years working in the fields of North Carolina and Florida the heat didn't deter Fernando Cuevas. Some things haven't changed much in the last thirty years.

"Thirty years ago when I was his age," he recalls, nodding towards his 14 years old son, "$1.25 a flat is what they (strawberry pickers) were paid, and $1.25 a flat is what they are paid now."

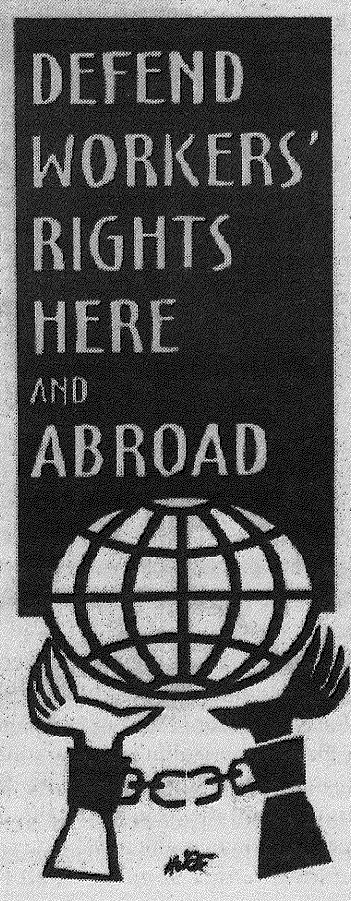
Cuevas, now an organizer for the Toledo, Ohio based Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) came to Kash 'n' Karry supermarket on 56th Street and Busch Boulevard with his two sons and a dozen supporters, including four Wobblies, to ask consumers to boycott Mt. Olive pickles. Mt. Olive, North Carolina's largest pickle producer, has refused to sit down and bargain a contract with FLOC, even though more than 2,000 farmworkers have signed union authorization cards.

Mt. Olive President Bill Bryan has maintained that FLOC has to negotiate with the growers, but Cuevas disagrees. He said, "I represent the Farm Labor Organizing Committee. I've been organizing in North Carolina where we've signed up 2,000 workers that want the representation of FLOC. Those workers are wanting a contract with Mt. Olive, but Mt. Olive denies to even meet with FLOC or with the workers. They keep saying they want nothing to do with the workers; they are not the employer. In reality, Mt. Olive is the one that does the decision making."



FW D'Angelo & FW Viscaino continue to work with other Florida Wobs with farmworkerws and FLOC.

Shortly after noon, the group split up and Cuevas' younger son and a Tampa Wobbly took up places in front of Kash 'n' Karry doors, handing out flyers to shoppers. Fernando and others walked the picket line at the other end of the parking lot. A store manager came outside and told the two handing out flyers that they would have to move away from the front of the store. He was asked if it was private property and said that it was.



Off the Job in Canada: a brief history of militancy

There is an old joke which asks "how do you get Canadians out of a swimming pool at closing time?" The answer, playing into the stereotype of the friendly Canadian goes something like "hey you Canadians, please get out of the pool." Canada, with the possible exception of Toronto, likes to think of itself as, clean, safe and, well, nice. Yet what to make of the fact that on average Canadian workers spend more time out of work because of strikes or lockouts that any other G-7 nation? Between 1986 and 1995 Canada 'lost' an average of 292 work days annually per 1,000 workers. By way of contrast, for Italy, which has an international reputation for worker militancy, the figure was 252 days. Across the OECD countries the average was only 117 days. The media is currently saturated with stories about Canada's strike wave, noting a ten-year high for strikes. Are we seeing a return to militant strike action and class struggle?

In many ways the question is a red herring. Class struggle does not cease, even when its most visible forms, such as strikes, official or otherwise, are absent. Actions such as absenteeism, sabotage, go-slows, and other actions to assert workers' rights on the job are a constant part of working life. Nevertheless in the last period there have been a number of highly visible actions undertaken by Canadian workers.

In March 14,000 employees and members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees CUPE) at the Toronto Board of Education fought a two-week strike over wages and job security. Given that teachers in Ontario staged a two week illegal strike, referred to by teachers as a "job action," in the Fall of 1997, it might have been expected that teachers would honor CUPE's lines. Instead teachers received instructions from their union to cross lines and were informed that any disciplinary action taken against those who chose not to cross was not grounds for a grievance. A memo produced before the strike weakly explained the CUPE strike was in no way similar to the teachers' strike a year before. As it turned out many students, no doubt seeking days off school, were important allies for CUPE members: They quickly improvised guerilla tactics in an attempt to close the schools by plugging toilets, pulling fire alarms and spreading garbage throughout the schools.

In April members of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) walked off the job on a legal strike. Within hours the ruling New Democratic Party (NDP) government enacted back to work legislation in an attempt to break the strike. Unfortunately for the government, they underestimated, both the nurses' determination and the public's support - SUN members defied the ruling and an injunction handed down by the Saskatchewan courts. Despite, or perhaps because of threats of massive fines and possible jail terms, the nurses grew more militant and after a week of demonstrations, and a seemingly endless of numbers of faxes and demonstrations of support for the nurses the government proposed a compromise. While 'conservative' governments of both the left and right have been able to impose their ideas in many areas, it is consistently around issues of health care and education that the public has murmured discontent.

On April 15 1999 just a few days after the Saskatchewan nurses struck, workers at Can Fab, a seat cover manufacturing company in Stratford, Ontario, decided to take a direct approach to the problem of layoffs. The mostly female workforce decided to protest another 57 layoffs due to the outsourcing of work to Mexico by occupying the plant. (To date there have been almost 250 layoffs at the plant). Less than 24 hours later a deal was reached which saw the 57 recalled and a future arrangement to recall laid off workers when others retired. A flawed formula to be sure, since an optimal arrangement would have seen all of the workers recalled, but it was an indication of possibilities.

On April 21 the city of Toronto awoke to find itself without a transit system. After weeks of negotiations and two false starts members of the Amalgamated Transit Union local 13 went on strike in Toronto. The country's largest city was without buses, streetcars or subways for two days before a deal was worked out, which saw outstanding issues going to arbitration. Over 900,000 commuters who regularly use the system were stranded, and while the city did not grind to a complete halt, it was a major inconvenience everyone, regardless of whether they used the system or not. No doubt like many who read about massive CEO bonuses and were dazzled with the media stories of how capitalism is booming, the members of the union who had received only a 1% wage raise since 1991 thought "what about us?" Despite the somewhat fashionable theories about the disappearance of class and class struggle many must have dusted off their copies of Ralph Chaplin's "The General Strike" and watched as the working class, by the simple action of withdrawal of labor produced massive dislocation. Those who noted that people were getting to work under their own power should have thanked the good weather. A few days of April showers would have quickly dampened the enthusiasm for morning exercise. During the strike Toronto's civic leaders warned that wage increases would lead to fare increases. One worker observed "They're going to raise the fares anyway. They're just looking for someone to blame it on." A week after the strike city council voted to raise the transit fares by 10 cents.

There is a perception that workers like to go on strike. Perhaps this impression is a result of the mass media which delight in showing images of doughy union leaders. In fact most workers who go on strike lose in terms of wages. By the time they make up any lost wages from the strike in the form of wage increases, the contract has expired and the whole messy process begins again. Martin Glaberman noted in Shopfloor Struggles of American Workers:

"There's no contradiction in the worker's mind. Workers don't cause strikes: bosses cause strikes. If you want to end strikes, get the bosses to behave. . . Workers in general don't want to strike - they can't afford to lose the time. Yet they find themselves compelled, in order to be human beings, to behave as human beings, to carry on actions on the shop floor. Which in fact means that life on the shopfloor, or the office floor, or in the mine shaft, or anywhere is a constant struggle."

In other words, the myth of the quiet friendly Canadian, no doubt encouraged by such TV programs as Due South is just that, a myth. Canadian workers are no less a part of the global pattern than other workers. For the left, especially those organizations which headline "19__ the Year Canada Turned Left" every year, the current increase in visible strike activity will serve as proof of their political perspectives. For others the strike wave is a recognition of the existence of class society and class struggle.

PO Box 46743 - 939 Lawrence Avenue East
Don Mills, ON, M3C 3S7, Canada

Two Indigenous Workers Tortured & Beaten: Accused of Supplying Rebellion in Chiapas

On February 6, two men from the community of La Mendoza and Diez De Abril, Chiapas, (the community where Wobblies have been active in conjunction with the Irish Mexico Group), were detained and "disappeared" by the Mexican military. Human rights organizations were able to visit the two tzeltal indigenous men, Daniel Gomez Velazco and Jose Angel Gomez Velazco, who stated that they had been beaten and tortured following their detainment by the Mexican Army at the "La Peninsula" military checkpoint in the municipality of Ocosingo.

The first reports of the capture of the two came from the driver of the van in which they had been traveling when they were detained. He stated that they had been blindfolded and beaten. The detainees reported the same, saying that the soldiers removed their shirts from them so that they could use them as blindfolds, and for close to an hour they were kicked and punched by their captors. They were then transferred to the Public Ministry Agency Office of the PGR in Ocosingo, which had denied their presence until human rights organizations were able to officially locate them there several days later.

Interrogations of the two men continued at the PGR office, where they were once more tortured, beaten and threatened with harm to their families if they did not sign a statement declaring they were Zapatista militants and had been carrying ammunition. During the interrogations they were shown a photo of one of them, taken in Mexico City during the "March of the 1111 Zapatistas" in September of 1997. They also noted that the interpreter they were given said that he did not understand what they were saying.

On February 9, the two Velazco men were sent to the judge (under case # 32-99) and were accused of violating the Federal Firearms and Explosives Law through the transportation of ammunition and of rebellion. The accused have most likely been transferred to the Cerro Hueco Jail in Tuxtla Gutierrez.

The two men have been severely traumatized by the illegal incommunicado detention, beatings, humiliation, threats and lack of food. Activists are demanding an end to the human rights violations the detainees have undergone, as well as a repudiation of the federal army's aim of incriminating the Zapatistas as suppliers of munitions. The two men are still in custody and in order to save them from further threats and torture it is vital to act now to demand their immediate release.

Send letter of protest to:

Mexican Embassy, 27 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016, USA.

Phone: (212) 217.6400

Fax: (212) 217.6411

email can be sent from this address:

http://www.pgr.gob.mx/frames/framej.htm

Interview with Ray Carr: Job Shop in Hampshire

We recently heard that the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) had established a job shop in Hampshire, and took the opportunity to interview Ray Carr, the IWW delegate involved.

BF: *Can you tell us where the IWW has organized?*

RC: I work at the Co-op Retail Services in New Milton. There are 30 workers in all, 6 are now IWWs and USDAW (reformist shop workers union) have about the same.

BF: *The Co-op traditionally had a special cosy relationship with the USDAW, who survived from the checkoff of union subs from there. Was this a factor?*

RC: It was part of the reason, but although USDAW are very into social partnership, the majority of its members these days are in companies like Tesco.

BF: *The IWW is explicitly anti-capitalist, was this an issue for the other workers who joined?*

RC: The whole issue took off when management proposed to open the store till 10pm. Myself and one USDAW member opposed it and after speaking to the other workers there, there was 100% opposition.

We organized by putting in a collective grievance and holding a meeting. At the meeting it was agreed that nobody would sign new contracts, which we expected they might try to impose on us, and that if any pressure was put on an individual, the others would support them. I took both IWW and USDAW membership forms to the meeting. As things carried on, there was the danger that USDAW (who had done nothing) would take the credit and get members. I explained about the IWW, the major factors in people joining were the low dues, the fact that there are no paid officials and the internal democracy. Five people joined, making a branch of 6 including myself.

BF: *What was management's response?*

RC: On the 10pm opening issue we had one meeting with the Human Resources Manager. We told him that the grievance could only be called off by the whole workforce, as it was the meeting of all the workers there who had decided on it. The issue has not been mentioned since.

BF: *Do you see more members joining?*

RC: I see it as an ongoing campaign, not just in the co-op but in the retail industry generally.

BF: *What help could our readers give to support what you are doing?*

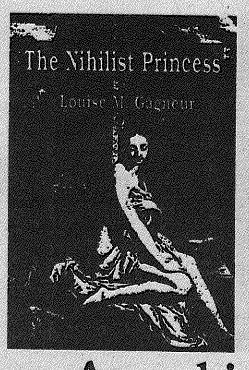
RC: The best way to help is to promote a different type of unionism as I've outlined above, which is what we all should be doing.

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The Nihilist Princess
a novel by
Louis M. Gagneur

Reintroducing best-selling 19th century radical feminist author Louise M. Gagneur! In *The Nihilist Princess* she fictionalizes events taking place in the nihilist movement in Russia, which sought to free people from the Czar, the aristocracy, and the capitalists. Wanda Kryloff, the daughter of a cruel aristocrat, becomes a nihilist heroine. This early feminist novel will excite anyone interested in the history of literature, feminism, or radical politics.

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--- *Earth First! Journal*
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Nigerian Oil Exports Shackled By Strike

"Our leaders are talking now and we are determined to continue our action as long as it is necessary," said one striking Shell worker in southeastern Port Harcourt, Nigeria. As of late June, the white collar union PENGASSAN and blue collar union NUPENG downed tools over pay and working conditions and threatened to blockade Nigerian crude oil loadings. One of the key demands in the negotiations is pay parity for Nigerian and expatriate workers.

Elf-Aquitaine has itself been hit by a work-to-rule protest against recent firings. Company officials are claiming that the pressure tactics are not affecting exports of crude oil or production in the fields, but there are rumours in London markets that the strike is causing delays of a few days in loadings.

Negotiations between oil companies and workers usually take place at this time of year, but this strike is also the first major trade union action since 15 years of military rule came to an end on May 29. Shell operates a joint venture with the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Elf-Aquitaine and Agip and accounts for about half of Nigeria's crude oil output. These companies' crude oil output is pegged at 1.885 million barrels per day, according to OPEC's latest production quotas.

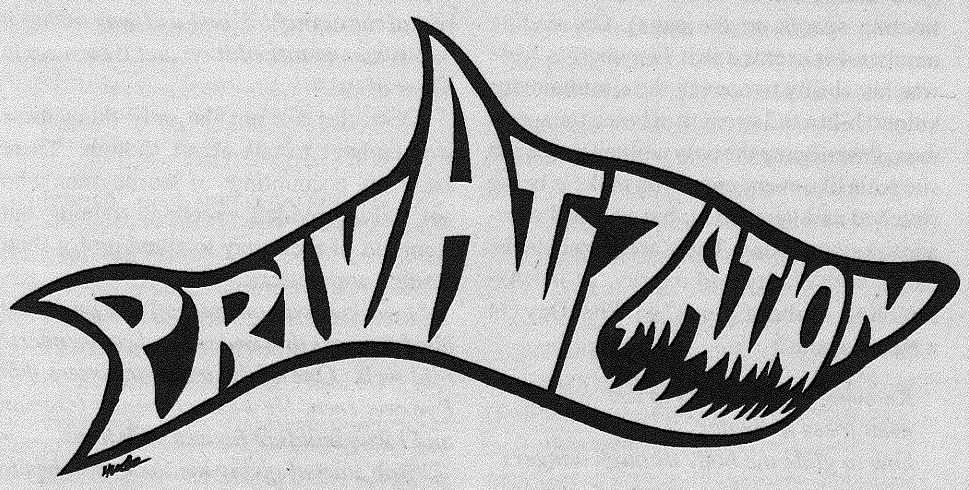
Shell has protected itself somewhat from the immediate effects of the strike by operating a "skeleton staff" and maintaining production with only a few closures in the fields, according to industry sources. But even they are admiting that this situation can only continue for a short time before there will be delays in shipments.

Melbourne Transport Hit By Direct Action Vandals?

After the removal of conductors from trams, and stations' assistants from railway stations, and their replacement with ticket machines, a wave of vandalism hit Melbourne, Australia. The ticket machines, too, became targets when it became known that pouring corrosive fluids like acid into the coin slot would make the machine spew out its contents of money. While a more "corrosive resistant" coin slot was being perfected, Chubb security guards were hired to guard the remaining machines and replacements. Video surveillance cameras were also installed to record and monitor all activity on the railway platforms.

Most passengers and transport workers would have preferred to have a stations' assistant back...but the goverment's private contracts with the new private owners of Melbourne's tram, train routes and ticketing system were already signed. A combination of Liberal government bureaucracy and Corporate Greed triumphed over the media-hyped, "shock-horror-evil-petty thieves" and vandals.

The big crooks' theft of the public transport system and vandalism of Melbourne's parks and urban buildings is on a colossal scale, (e.g. the new City Link Tollway.) These kids ("vandals") merely immitated the Crown Casino/Pub-pokies, (quick bucks of adults with more money than sense.) They became the greatest threat to Melbourne/Victoria, Inc.," since the public transport workers in January 1990. Those fighting for thier jobs blockaded the city street with trams to protest the removal of conductors and the earlier tragic farce, the "scratch ticket" scam of the then Labor Government.



Australia Industrial Win

continued from page 1

and donned a pair of cheap colorful running shoes. The Health and Safety Officer said, "Sorry, you can't mow in those." So Mike didn't.

And the grass grew. And grew. And grew. In three weeks it was knee deep in places with tall seed heads. Mike has said it was a "very impressive sight." Hospital staff began to worry about snakes. The nurses were talking of putting on a sausage sizzle to raise money to buy Mike his boots. Mike was finding support in all sorts of unlikely places.

Finally the light dawned on Hospital Management. It just wasn't worth the trouble. They said OK and gave Mike $50 to get himself a pair of boots.

Mike readily admits that he could not have done it without the muscle of his other union to back him up if Management had got really nasty and sacked him, but the folded arms was pure Wobbly. Mike says, "It's nice for a while to exercise the folded arms approach to industry and watch everything sink back into chaos. They really don't believe you do anything until you stop. Think what a General Strike could be like!"

A small win, but not so small, really. The other worker at the hospital has been told to get himself some boots at hospital expense, and over the years this will add up to be a fair few pairs of boots for many hospital workers. Boots aren't cheap when you're on the lowest wage.

Right across the Australian workforce conditions and wages are being wound back. Unpaid overtime and doing that little bit extra in your own time is becoming expected. And no one is game to say "boo!"

Yet some real wins can be made fairly easily. It's often just a matter of jacking up! Look at your situation, think it through and pick your moment. Then workers of Australia—and the World—**fold your arms!!**

Seattle Plans for General Sick Out to "Honor" WTO?

On June 22nd, 18 delegates and representatives from many unions and labor organizations gathered at the King County Labor Council to discuss labor's response to the rapidly approaching World Trade Organization's (WTO) Third Ministerial Conference November 29 - December 3 in Seattle, WA.

The WTO is an unelected panel of corporate officials that negotiate international trade agreements between multinational corporations and the nation-states in which they do business. In the four years since it came into being, the WTO has unilaterally overturned nationally enacted laws such as: bans on beef hormones in the European Union, a Massachusetts law promoting democracy in Burma, sections of the US Clean Air Act, the US Dolphin Protection Act, a Taiwanese law banning alcohol ads and many others. The WTO is the highest body of global capital, and when it overturns nationally enacted laws such as these, it justifies it by simply citing them as "impediments on free trade." Laws that protect workers, of course, are also considered "impediments to free trade," and are therefore also on the grand chopping block of the WTO.



"We, the Board of the WTO, unilaterally oppose both the international plot to cease work and thusly halt commerce, as well as these annoying health and safety regulations on the grounds that they both impede free trade!"

Present at the meeting were Secretary Ron Judd of the King County Labor Council and delegates from the Teamsters, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Service Employees International Union, Ironworkers, Musicians Union and the Puget Sound Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World.

With such a profoundly intense subject at hand, the talk quickly got around to the much anticipated subject of whether or not to call for a "General Strike" in Seattle to protest the WTO. Discussion abounded with some denouncing the idea, and many cheering it. In line with the official AFL-CIO position, the decision was made to call for a "Day of Action" instead, yet to still try to get Seattle's workers to not go to work that day in whatever way they deemed appropriate.

The biggest problem with calling for a general strike seemed to be that the international presidents of the AFL would never support it, and would probably try to shut it down. The other reason being that while many people might not want to go "on strike," they might be willing to call in sick, or ask for the day off. ILWU longshoremen might call for a stop-work meeting that day while not actually striking. Bus Drivers with the Allied Transit Union have brought up the possibility of just parking their busses in strategic places and walking off the job. The point of striking (to shut down all commerce in the city of Seattle) would still be made whether workers actually strike or not, and labor's strength would still be felt.

The ILWU and the Teamsters are planning on committing a full time organizer each to labor's response to the WTO, while the United Steelworkers of America have already hired two full-time organizers for their part. In addition, USWA is committing 5,000 - 10,000 steelworkers to the efforts in Seattle. Over the Labor Day weekend in September, the AFL-CIO will be kicking off a major nationwide public education campaign about the globalization of capital, and how the WTO coming to Seattle embodies some of the worst aspects of the new economy. In the works for the kickoff are full size bus ads and billboards to drive the point home to the public as to what a major issue this is and how it affects our everyday lives.

Locally, the IWW's role will probably be agitation and the fomenting of solidarity amongst the rank and file of the AFL-CIO unions, as well as among the presently unorganized workers of Seattle. If IWW members would like to come to Seattle for the Day of Action on November 30, contact the Puget Sound Branch and we will try to find a place for you to stay.

At the International Solidarity Conference (I-99) in San Francisco, signatures of support were collected from union members of revolutionary unions from around the world, including IWW members in France, Australia, Germany, Canada, California, Maryland, Michigan, Washington and Oregon, as well as members of the SAC (Sweden), CNT (France), FAU (Germany), and ASGM (Australia). A litserve was created to bring together discussions and is up and running at no2wto@listbot.com. Send a message to no2wto-request@listbot.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line and nothing in the body of the message to subscribe. For those without email access, keep an eye on the GOB and the IW for further updates and discussion.

Recent discussions in the IWW and with other union members has brought forth the proposal to call for activists in other cities to help organize events in more cities than just Seattle. The AFL-CIO nationwide education campaign should help boost such efforts. Nothing would surprise the united capitalists of the world more than a Global Day of Action against the WTO to bring commerce to a complete stop in major cities around the world. For more information, contact the Puget Sound Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World, 5215 Ballard NW Seattle, WA 98115.

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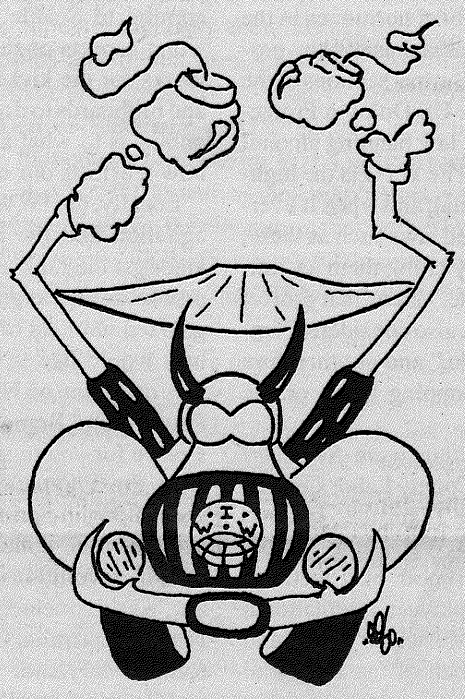
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Adventures at the "Scab House"

WILCO!



FROM THE BIG ROAD

The night was particularly dark as I steered my truck, empty now since the rather difficult drop in Holland, MI, approximately an hour and a half before. Holland, MI, where not only does every road seem to run in some sort of roundabout manner, changing names and direction at random due to the whim of some historical city planner, (it should be no mystery that this has the ability to unnerve even the most sober and well rested driver), but it is also the land of the Prince Corporation. I'm sorry, what I meant to say was Johnson Controls, the company that just bought out Prince and laid off thousands of workers during record profit years. *Johnson Controls, the corporate monster formerly known as Prince.* But that ain't nothing new, let's move on.

Around Ionia, MI, I noticed that the sign ahead warned, "Weigh Station 1 Mile."

Just a brief mention about Weigh Stations, known as "Chicken Houses," Chicken Coops," or "Scab Houses" on the Civilian Band. When I first started driving, I was given many words of advice on how to survive the experience of a Scab House. Everything from running my wipers if my windshield was cracked to skipping them altogether if a bunch of semis were stacked in the lane. Whatever you do *do not make eye contact with the cops in the shack.* As an old dear friend used to say whenever around the cops, "Don't show 'em your fear." I assume everybody knows that the Diesel Bears at the Chicken Coop ain't just checking to see if you're overweight or not, it is so much deeper than that.

Anyway, I knew that this was the only roadblock between myself and home so, as I rounded the curve in the road I was gripping the wheel with tired hands hoping I'd see the letters C-L-O-S-E-D lighting up the dark highway.

If only I could've been so lucky.

I pulled off the highway completely alone, no one else on the road or on the ramp. The only other truck in sight had already been pulled over. I was doomed.

I kept my eyes pointing sternly forward as I crept over the scales at 3 mph. *Here it comes,* I thought. "Please pull around and bring your paperwork into the office," announced the disembodied, yet strangely pathetic, voice.

"You goddamn bastard," I pronounced to no one in particular in the empty cab.

The other driver in the room was a big black man who spoke with the most adorable Ohio accent I had ever heard. He offered me a look of anguish and compassion before the cop turned to address me.

"I pulled you over because I didn't see an MPSC sticker on your truck," the officer extended his hand. "Cab card please." He took awhile looking over my papers. "Medical card. Log Book," he said these things as if he were waiting to catch me at something.

He just had.

"I don't have my Medical Card or my Log Book," I responded as confidently as I could, knowing I had been caught. I won't go into all the details and questions that ensued after that. Let's just say he knew he had me too and was loving it.

Every time he turned his back to pass his infallible judgement on another passing truck, the other driver and I would exchange glances of comic defeat. This was a great relief, but also a cause for near hysterical laughter on many occasions. And for those of you wondering, hysterical laughter is not the correct response to a cop in the Chicken House.

He turned toward us again and we were almost caught. Both of us lifting a hand to our mouths to hopefully contain the snickers and giggles which lurked behind our teeth and lips. "This is for you," he said to our Ohio friend, "and don't think you can leave until that is paid and your tail light is fixed. There are some numbers outside by the pay phone that you can call for repairs."

The driver began to hand a pile of twenties over, I've no idea how many. The shitty thing about that tail light is I knew it wasn't his fault, it is management's responsibility to keep their vehicles roadworthy, and I also knew that his boss wouldn't pay a bit of the outrageous bill he would receive from calling a repair shop to drive all the way out to this place to put in a light bulb.

He was on the way out when I stopped him. "Hey man, before you call that place, wait until I get out of here and I'll see if I have a bulb in my truck and we can fix that thing right here. I've got the tools."

"Hey, thanks man!," he smiled and nodded toward the cop.

Mr. Law was pissed at this obscene display of trucker solidarity and proceeded to give me not one break, but instead to entertain me with an unforgivable barrage of racist garbage. From comments on the other trucker to diatribes on how Detroit is a "welfare cancer" on the state of Michigan.

"Whatever," I said, "the rest of the state of Michigan would not even *exist* without Detroit." I continued, making it clear that his thinly disguised racist garbage was in no way a point where we converged.

As I left with the $170 in tickets he had decided I needed to "teach me a lesson," I was smiling. Sure, he had shafted me good, but I like to know that "The Man" still gets riled when workers help out workers.

I approached my new friend's truck with the light bulb I knew I had had. He pointed at the semi driver who had pulled behind the station not because he had been stopped, but because he was just hanging with his cop buddy.

"They're probably butt buddies, huh?," he nudged me, looking for agreement.

"Look dude," I responded, "you've got a faggot right here helping you fix your rig, so you better watch what you say. Besides, why don't you call them what they are. A racist fascist pig, and a goddamn coplover."

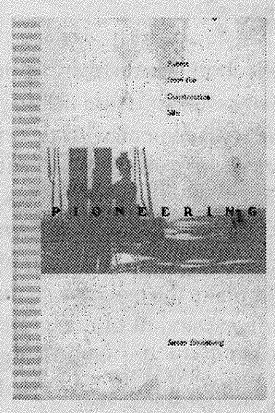
He looked me over rather strangely and said, "You know, you're right, that's *exactly* what they are, and there ain't much worse than a goddamn coplover."

And with that we fixed his rig, shook on it and hit the road.

Solidarity, Gator.

Two By Susan Eisenberg: Women in Construction

Pioneering: Poems from the Construction Site



When asked to review Susan Eisenberg's new book of poetry, Pioneering: Poems from the Construction Site, I whined "But I hate poetry" and immediately accepted the task. Not as a masochistic favor, but because I was curious. What would this woman who broke barriers in Boston's local 103 20 years ago have to say? How similar would our experiences as female electricians be; her two decades to my first year? I began at the back and read forward poem by poem. At the turn of almost every page I hit another passage I wanted to show someone and say "Yes, that's just like when..." So I almost had to laugh aloud when I hit the middle of the book and realized it was divided into two sections. First is Shifting Earth: poems from 1985-1998, and second a reprinted segment of It's a Good Thing I'm not Macho: poems of apprenticeship (1984). No wonder I, the apprentice, had felt this was all so familiar. I eventually read the entire book four or five more times trying to decide if I liked the book because it was like seeing myself,

or because it was well written. On reading number 2 I had decided that the "Partner #1-9" series were my favorites in the book, each poem describing electricians who could easily have been one of the men I've worked with so far. Each one vivid in its description of situation and character, and crafted in a style which is closer to prose that poetry (you know, all of those wierd tabs and floating spaces on the page). On reading number 4 it seemed that Eisenberg's forte was her ability to convey the simultaneous vulnerability and strength of being the specimen. When being the only woman on the job site feels like every move you make is being watched and laughed at, but you still manage to keep walking. These are moments she paints with clarity and dignity, as in "Assembling a Labor Chorus" or "First Day On a New Jobsite":

Knowing which words to use
what jokes to banter
how to glide the body through dangers
without knocking anything or anyone;
learning to speak first
and define the territory
of conversation.

Passing.

Ultimately, what makes this book stand out is the poems *about* the construction site. The ones which lay out the terrain of our daily work like a snapshot, a painting or a sculpture. The ones which enable the reader to see the beauty of steel grid and pipe:

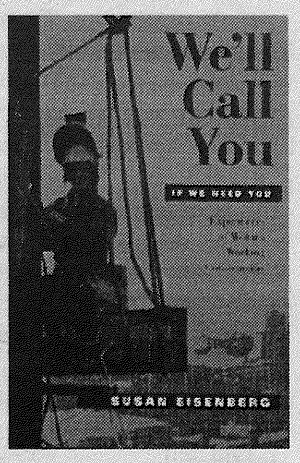
arteries of plumbing pipes branch across
electric nerve lines sinews of metal
secure airducts
pumping coolbreath/warmbreath
to the skeletal framework of iron beams
from: *Through the Ceiling,*
Maiden Voyage

These are the words of a woman who braved more scorn than I can imagine, so that I too could climb through the steel, wrestle with cable and stop to look down and think how stunning this all is. They are words I'm glad I have read.

Hilary Archbold

We'll Call You If We Need You: Experiences of Women working construction

We'll CAll You If We Need You is an incredible book that I am not only recomending to everyone I know but I plan on reading again and maybe again.



The book is arranged thematically, beginning with women's decisions to enter the industry. Discussion is interspersed with short stories by an excellent variety of women. In her introduction Susan Eisenberg says "I hope this arrangement helps the reader to resist the temptation to simply glorify and romanticize these women.." Well, I tried, but it was a little hard. The dedication and endurance demonstrated by these women are inspiring.

Since the 1978 federal guidelines, designed to open the construction industry to women, there have been many points at which this progressive agenda was derailed. The obstacles covered here include, but are not limited to, harrassment, abuse, physical attacks, and indifference.

"I was deliberately set up, actually, on two occasions. Once I had circuits turned on when I was trimming out receptacles in a high-rise office space. I don't know who turned the circuits on. And another time I'd been hooking up fire alarm exit signs and I went back to check some.. I was up at a light exit sign, and someone had actually tied the ground wire into the hot wire on the other end of the Scotchlok and as I was taking it out, someone turned it on and it blew up in fromt of me."

Obstacles are not the only thing these women have to talk about, though. There are many accountings of journeymen who not only provided excellent training but went out of their way to stand up for their women apprentices.

"I worked with one guy off and on for the last few years that understood camaraderie real well. One of the best carpenters that I've ever seen. He was a carpenter foreman and I was building houses with him...

"Bob started giving me these porches to put on these houses, and I didn't know porch for shit. So I'm struggling to get through these porches, and this other guy is going, "God, it's taking her a long time to do these Porches." So Bob put him on a couple of porches. and it was taking him just as long. Bob says, "Just shut up, it took you that many days to put that porch up." He;d do that He'd nail 'em."

This book will dispell any myths that are still out there that the struggle for women in construction is done or that women can't do this kind of work. For women and girls considering a construction trade it will give them an idea of the good, the bad, and the ugly. And for those women already in the industry, recognition.

And for all women, as Susan Eisenberg states, *"Construction is a publicly visible and ingerently dramatic industry, but the problems women have faced there will, I suspect, find a resonance of familarity even with women who work in fields and under conditions that are starkly different."*

Robin Hood

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One Big Union. by IWW.
The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. $2.00.

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103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. $10.

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Organizing Resources

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer
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What Ever Happened to the Eight Hour Day? by Arthur J. Miller
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by Carlos Cortez
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A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militancy and offers his vision of building a new, radical, rank & file labor movement. $5.

Fellow Worker:
The Life of Fred Thompson.
Edited by D. Roediger
Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. $10.

Memoirs of a Wobbly
by Henry E. McGuckin.
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Using scores of interviews with Mexican rank & file workers, labor officials, women's organizations, lawyers and human rights' activists, LaBotz illustrates the precarious position of workers in the Mexican economy the 1990's. $12.

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The New Class War: Reagan's Attack on the Welfare State and Its Consequences
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Pioneering: poems from the construction site by Susan Eisenberg
An amazing book of poems describing a woman's trials and triumphs on the job.
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We'll Call You If We Need You: experiences of women working in construction
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Stories, essays and analysis of what it means to be a woman working construction then & now.
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T-SHIRTS

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A Wobbly Asks: "So...How's the Family?"—A Workfare Review

In 1996 Bill Clinton signed a federal Welfare Reform Bill called the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. With its punitive and exploitative flavors, the PRWORA is calculated to save the government over 65 billion dollars in a seven year period by throwing people off the welfare rolls. States failing to meet PRWORA standards are sanctioned, and counties in turn are sanctioned, by the state labor bureaucrats if they are not in compliance. In the last three years New York State has dumped 600,000 people. trumped up as the final solution to reduce dependency and promote the well being of families and children, welfare recipients are pushed into work with no regard to their interests, skills or abilities. Instead of receiving intense case management, job readiness programs and support services, workfare workers get the privilege of earning their boss an $8500 tax break.

"I'm 32, and raising three small children. I went for my High School Equivalency 2 years ago, then got accepted to a computer course at a community college," describes Ms. Baecher, resident of Albany, New York. "Last month I got a notice from Social Services that I have to get a job or they'd take away my foodstamps, medicaid and rent vouchers, and cut off my cash allowance of $25 every two weeks. They told me it's the workfare era and I better get used to it."

With the TANF program (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) replacing the AFDC program (Aid to Families with Dependant Children), a parent now has only one year to nurture a newborn before being forced out to work, whereas before she could hope for at least three years. PRWORA provides no extra money when a baby is born to a woman who is already on welfare, and imposes a two-year limit for continuous aid with a five-year lifetime cap. In some counties, children of recipients must attend school with a minimum of absences or their parents, under a program called Learnfare, lose their benefits. Adult recipients are required to take a mandatory drug screening, followed up with treatment if there is a positive toxicology. PRWORA is accompanied with rigorous investigations into, and prosecutions of, "alleged" fraud, and the generalized attitude towards recipients is that they are lazy and less then working class.

"They demanded I take a clerical job working for the very same Social Services department that's screwing me," said Baecher. "I'm earning the equivalent of $5.25 an hour doing identical tasks as the CSEA member sitting next to me. We talk about how the government is exploiting me and how they're busting her union."

Under the new Work Experience Program, welfare recipients work at the equivalent of minimum wage jobs for non-profit or government groups. According to Dave Kircher, president of local CSEA in Albany, there are about 500 workers left in his department which has downsized 119 staff positions over the past three years. "I've seen some WEP workers put here but it's nothing like what they're dealing with in New York." In NYC welfare workers are doing many of the duties that had been done by the 20,000 city workers whose positions have been cut from the payroll. Last year Mayor Gulliani withdrew his plan to fire 1000 city hospital workers and replace them with WEP workers after being sued by Hospital Workers Union 1199. New York City uses 35,000 welfare workers in city parks, garages and offices to avoid hiring more costly, unionized workers. Workfare workers say they are less likely to receive job placement assistance than other public assistance recipients, further supporting the claim that WEP workers are indeed displacing union workers.

"Families are becoming poorer in New York State," reports Kim Lane, Wobbly organizer and prevention social worker. "The official stats show a decline in unemployment nationally, but one out of twelve families who got dumped off welfare by September 1996, earned above poverty level wages by June 1997. "People are being moved from one form of poverty to another. Many work two jobs, have to leave their kids in unsafe situations, and I meet so many people with no health insurance for their families. Many don't have a high school diploma and they want to work. If the state wants to get people off welfare they should provide job training and decent wages. It's like a sci-fi movie, but it's here and it's very real." Competing against the public sector, consortiums are forming to reap the benefits of this cheap labor pool. "The fat cat bosses are saving tons of money. Poverty isn't even a problem for capitalists anymore. Every day you read about new business partnerships forming like the one between Monsanto, Sprint, United Airlines and UPS welcoming workfare workers into their corporate "families." Of course these companies want workfare workers. It's a cheap way to get wage slaves. There are so many breaks for the employee."



Right On Sharon! Economic Representation By Whatever Means Necessary!
Sharon Clarke with Tiffany, Ashara and granddaughter Mariah.

Workfare workers do not have the same status as other workers. Although minimum wage and other Fair Labor Standards Act requirements are supposed to apply, it is the welfare benefits, and not cash, that contribute towards meeting minimum wage requirements for TANF recipients in work activities. A workfare parent may receive foodstamps as compensation for certain hours and receive rent vouchers or childcare expenses as compensation for other hours of employment. Because workfare participants receive their benefits in exchange for work, they do not qualify for federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit. There are only 23 states and two tribes where OSHA has direct jurisdiction over public sector employees, providing coverage to participants. Unemployment insurance coverage, however, does not extend to services performed as part of publicly funded "work relief" or "job training" programs, and are excluded by all states except Hawaii. In the private sector, UI coverage is discretionary, hinging on whether or not a particular workfare worker in considered an "employee" by her or his boss.

Sharon Clarke, a 40 year old single parent and LPN, reports that the strict requirements of social service programs have forced her in and out of employment. "I'm a nurse who can't work as a nurse even though job availability is good in my field. If I take a job at the going rate of 11 or 12 dollars an hour, that will shoot me right out of public housing. Instead of the $250 rent I pay now out of pocket, I'd have to pay $575 a month. Then $75 every paycheck for health insurance, plus daycare at $150 a week. That adds up to a big, fat zero and that's not even counting food or clothing. So I'd rather wait until after the summer when I can get a lower paying job, and then I'll qualify for some benefits again."

Clarke left the girls' father when she was employed full time as an LPN and went to another county with the only domestic violence shelter that did not have a long waiting list. Safety was cut short, however, when Clarke was told she might be laid off. She returned to Albany to save her job, couldn't keep the apartment, found herself back in the domestic violence situation and became pregnant with her second daughter. She left her finance again, got another apartment with saved money, applied for benefits and was told there was a 75 day waiting period. "So we lived off my sick pay and my vacation pay," continues Clarke. "That was a few years ago, and I just got sanctioned for not reporting that money to them when I was waiting for my benefits to kick in. They're trying to make me pay back $1200."

Clarke wanted to return to nursing and asked to be transferred to the Child Assistance Program. She began her own job search. Although her case had been closed in the public assistance department, it was never transferred over to the CAP program and her benefits were never processed. Through no fault of her own, rent went unpaid for two months, and utilities for five. Once again, Clarke had to move her family. "It was crazy," she explains, "because I couldn't get childcare for Ashara until I was approved by the CAP program, and CAP wanted me out looking for work as a condition for receiving benefits, I had no way to pay for daycare, so I worked for temp agencies and for the Department of Labor at crazy hours on a non-steady basis. Even after my benefits kicked in, and I was offered a good job at an insurance company, I didn't have the transportation to bring Ashara from daycare to home. The school district wouldn't provide it beyond 3:00. For almost a year different people had to pick up my child. Sometimes it was me, running back and forth, then bringing her to work. What I have gone through trying to juggle my days, going from job to job and apartment to apartment, have been beyond belief."

Two months ago, due to a long recuperation period after surgery for cancer, Clarke lost her job and moved her family to the projects across the river again. "At least I only have to pay $250 for this apartment. I can't get another job yet because the baby is in school only half the day, and the county won't pay for afternoon childcare. It's important for me to keep this roof over my kids' heads, so when Ashara is in school all day in September I will get a clerical job for no more than $7.50 an hour. That way I'll be able to stay here."

When asked what prognosis Clarke has for the future she responds,"Workers need unions, but so do recipients. There's no representation for workfare workers, or women like myself who have to deal with the everyday issues like domestic violence, homelessness and our children's special needs. Recipients aren't treated with the same respect as other workers because we're usually 'temporary,' never able to get on-the-job experience or occupational skills. Even some union leaders look down on us. You can tell when they say things about us to protect their members' jobs. We should have an organization that fights for our right to education, daycare, healthcare and decent wages. Instead there's a whole lot of blaming poor people for the state of things." Clarke picked up the IW she just purchased and pointed to sabot-kitty. "Honey," she went on to say, "displaced homemakers, single parents and people my age are feisty. We've always been leading those picket lines. What the hell, we have nothing to lose. Now we need a whole new system of rule, as much as we need enough good food to eat and a decent place to live. In order to survive we're going to have to kick some butt, and it's going to be one big fight."

Right on Sharon! Economic representation By Whatever Means Necessary!

SW Barbara Sands

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Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under $1,000: $6 per month; Income $1,000-2,000: $12 monthly; Over $2,000: Dues $18. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as $12.00

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__ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
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